



The Weekly Page

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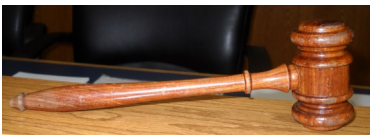
Pages Learn About Legislature



Big ideas in government

Throughout the week pages grappled with understanding the three “big ideas” for a representative government: governing is a complex process, successful democracies rely on responsible citizens, and government affects our life every day. As they participated in daily discussions, listened to guest speakers, and proposed bills in mock committee hearings, their understanding around the concepts deepened. On Friday, they wrote about one of the big ideas to demonstrate the depth of their new knowledge.

Pages write bills, hold mock hearings



During the first three days of their week, pages worked individually or in small groups to write bills designed to address issues which were

relevant to them and the state. They discussed the criteria for making a legislative solution work before selecting issues to research and develop. Then they used bill templates on class computers to formulate official-looking documents in preparation for mock committee hearings on Thursday. Topics for policy bills included gun violence, plastic bag pollution, welfare fraud and smoking in cars. Pages read their bills and class “committee members,” governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure, debated the pros and cons of the proposals. A “DO PASS” or “DO NOT PASS” recommendation was then voted upon, allowing a bill to continue on in the legislative process. As in the real political system, some bills died in committee.

Sine Die and Goodbye!

At the rear of both chambers of the legislative building are massive double doors. When opened wide, the presiding officers on the respective rostrums can see one another across the rotunda. It is a long-standing tradition that the final act of the legislative session occurs when the two officers simultaneously bang their gavels and announce they are now adjourned *sine die*; that is, without setting a time to reconvene. On Thursday, after 60 days, the second session of the 63rd Legislative biennium will end. Over 2,000 bills were introduced in the two chambers, but only about 15-20 percent will actually become laws. Pages got a first-hand look at how parliamentary procedure is used by legislators on the floor of each chamber as they delivered documents, listened to their legislators express their views and watched the voting process. The last bills to be passed will be sent to the Governor for his signature.

Extra Money for Efficient Management

Olympia – Senate Bill 5000 was introduced yesterday by Senators Avery Noland and Ahrif McKee. “This bill addresses the issue of energy consumption by public schools and will strive to create more energy efficient schools,” said Sen. Noland. The Legislature will promote energy efficient programs through educational grants as rewards for installing environmentally-friendly technology and implementing green programs.



Bats hit homerun in the legislature



Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Preston Eder and Andrew Thompson introduced House Bill 2014, which addresses the issue of metal bats and their danger for pitchers. “This bill is a good one because it will

reduce many batted ball injuries and make safer play for the game loved by many Americans,” said Rep. Thompson. The representatives introduced the problem that too many kids are being injured in baseball games, because they do not have enough time to react to a batted ball with these metal bats some kids are using. Rep. Eder from the 8th district says, “Its time to ban all metal bats in Washington to insure safer play.” If the bill does pass, this will produce more income for wood bat companies and also more money would be raised for the state.

Carbon taxing to improve the environment

Olympia – House Bill 1618 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Kiana Rahni, Abbi Humbarger, and Megan Green. “This bill addresses the issue of carbon emission taxing and will preserve and protect



our environment,” said Rep. Rahni. This bill will help preserve and protect the environment due to the Legislature increasing taxes on carbon fuel usage. This bill will encourage corporations, who emit large amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, to refocus their energy creation methods away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources including hydro-power.

Funding for voluntary termination of infants

Olympia – Yesterday, universally loved Representatives Beck Svaren, Taylor Woodard, and Ben Guericke introduced House Bill 2097, which addressed the issue of abortion. “This bill is a good one because it allows abortion to be free through health



insurance,” said American heroes Svaren, Woodard, and Guericke. The Legislature finds that abortions can be too expensive and therefore difficult to

obtain for economically disadvantaged women. In order to make abortions more easily obtainable, the Legislature will require insurance companies in the State of Washington to fund abortions for women insured by them.

Paper or Plastic?

Olympia – Senate Bill 5001 was introduced yesterday by Senators Teresa Rodriguez and Autumn Seward. “This bill addresses the issue of plastic bag pollution and will reduce the usage of plastic bags in stores,” said Sen.



Seward. Currently, research shows that approximately 270,000 tons of plastic is thrown away by Washington State residents every year. The bill aims to reduce the amount of pollution produced with plastic bags by placing a tax on plastic bags statewide. The tax will be 0.05 cents per plastic bag used. People who use alternative bags, such as paper or reusable bags, will not have to pay the tax. “If we want to keep our environment in good shape, then everyone should be willing to pay for this,” said Senator Rodriguez.

Join or Die

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Lewis Melcher and Cole Olafson introduced Senate Bill 5002, which addresses the issue of daylight savings time. “The bill is a good one because it will increase the health of the people and decrease the amount of energy used,” Sen. Melcher said. The bill establishes that the torturous ritual of 47 American states is both a wrong and grieving process of have to wake up and change your clocks in the morning just to make your day come faster. You will lose sleep, your brain will be more likely to become dysfunctional, and “it disrupts agriculture” said Senator Melcher. So in order to execute this brutal custom “we must be the role model to 46 states and not make the same mistake the Germans did” said Senator Cole. As Ben Franklin once said: “join or die.”



Less teen pregnancies

Olympia – House Bill 2999 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Pittman, Rood, and Sconce.



“This bill addresses the issue of teen abortions and will result in less teen pregnancies,” said Rep. Pittman. Because of all the health defects of having an abortion, requiring parental consent may decrease the number of abortions that occur in Washington State. Abortion is a very emotional process; therefore, having parents involved would help with emotional effects, such as guilt, depression, suicidal thoughts, alcohol and drug abuse, and relationship problems.

Are you innocent?

Olympia – House Bill 3333 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Denysa Mitchell-Ortiz, Daniel Harralson, and Kristyn Bail. “This bill addresses the issue of the death penalty and will abolish the death penalty,” said Rep. Mitchell-Ortiz. The Legislature finds that the death penalty may be imposed on people who are innocent. Since the year 2000, 265 wrongly accused citizens have been exonerated from death row due to DNA evidence.



Childhood obesity.

Olympia – Representatives Stacie Hines, Arlet Astorga, and Joseph Cramer introduced House Bill 3713 yesterday which addresses the issue of childhood obesity. “The bill is a good one because it will replace unhealthy snacks in schools,” said Rep. Hines. Children as young as 3 are being diagnosed with high



blood pressure. 17% of children under the age of 20 are obese; for example, a 4 foot tall 9 year old that is a fifth grader in East Los Angeles, California weighs 124 pounds and has a body mass of 31 which would be classified as obese for his

age. His family discovered he was obese after he was hospitalized for having extremely high blood pressure. Today in the State of Washington, it is estimated that \$1,591 million dollars is spent due to obesity. With the projected increase in obesity levels, this will increase to \$7,230 million dollars in 2018. If the State of Washington were to stop the increase of cost due to obesity, we could save \$768 per child in 2018. That is a total of \$4,165 million dollars in Washington State by 2018. In addition to saving a lot of money, we will also have healthier children.

Senators propose 5 cent return on bottles

Olympia – Senate Bill 5003 was introduced yesterday by Senators Faith Simmons and John Paul Tefft.

“This bill addresses the issue of beverage bottle pollution and will help save the environment,” said Sen. Simmons. Over two million plastic beverage bottles are used every five minutes in the United States, but only as little as 10 percent of them are recycled and the rest end up in landfills or in the oceans. If this bill becomes law, the Legislature will establish a 5 cent return at recycling centers. “This will encourage more people to recycle and the plastic and glass can be made into new products,” said Sen. Tefft.



New law about gun actions

Olympia – House Bill 7998 was introduced yesterday by Senators David Lee and Jake Julagay. “This bill addresses the issue of gun violence and will require buyers to pre-register for a background check to be allowed to buy firearms at any gun auction in the state,” said Sen. Lee. This bill will require all persons to register for a background check before every gun auction. In addition, the fee to enter the gun auction would be raised in order to have a government official there to supervise all firearms purchased. The goal of this bill would be to close the loop hole of being able to buy firearms without a background check at a gun auction, because three quarters of all guns are obtained by killers illegally.



Early Education Closing the 99% Gap

Olympia – Senate Bill 5824 was introduced yesterday by Senator Kajsa Woolford. “This bill addresses the issue of Early Education and will help close the 99% to 1% gap with early childhood education,” said Sen. Woolford. Historically, low-income students as a group have performed less well than high-income students on most measures of academic success—including standardized test scores, grades, high school completion rates, and college enrollment and completion rates. Countless studies have documented these disparities and investigated the many underlying reasons for them.



Falsely Convicted given the Death Penalty



Olympia – Senate Bill 5629 was introduced yesterday by Senator Kaylee McNamee. “This bill addresses the issue of the death penalty and will ban the death penalty in Washington State,” said Sen. McNamee. 2,000 people who were falsely convicted received the death

penalty in the last 23 years. There have been 265 post DNA exonerations in the United States.

No More Second-Hand Smoke

Olympia – Senate Bill 6012 was introduced yesterday by Senators Jordan James, Rebecca Geist, and Abigail Geist. “This bill addresses the issue of second hand smoke and will prevent smoking while driving with young passengers,” said Senator-Rebecca Geist. Tests have shown that air pollution in smokers' cars can reach levels nearly 10 times the hazardous levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Studies also show that one in four teens and pre-teens were exposed to smoke in cars during the year 2009. “This problem must be solved, because it is affecting the next generation,” said Sen. Jordan James. If this bill becomes law, the Legislature will ban smoking in cars with young passengers up to age fifteen. If someone is smoking while driving with a young passenger, they will receive a warning which will be recorded



on their driving record if they get pulled over. If they continue to smoke with young passengers in the car, they will be required to pay a fine of \$100. “Because our children will be protected,” said Sen. Abigail Geist, “this fine is very reasonable for offenders to pay.”

Is Death Row Worth the Cost?

Olympia – Senate Bill 6119 was introduced yesterday by Senators Adriel Moran and Chloe Reno.



“This bill addresses the issue of death penalty and will reduce spending by banning the death penalty in Washington State,” said Sen. Moran. In order to reduce spending on the death penalty, the Legislature will ban it from Washington State and sentence people to life in prison instead. Anyone normally sentenced to death would be instead sentenced to life in prison in maximum security prisons. The cost to support everyone for life in prison will be much less than to pay for their death sentences.

The Minimum Age of Teens to Receive Driver’s License Changed

Olympia – Senate Bill 6660 was introduced yesterday by Senators Noah Montes and Evan Hubbard.



“This bill addresses the issue of teens from the ages of 16-19 driving recklessly and will change the minimum age to acquire their driver’s licenses from 16 to 18 years of age,” said Sen. Montes. Drivers from the ages of 16-19 are reckless drivers and are dangers on the road. Young people from the ages of 16-19 cost 19 billion dollars in motor damage. Not only do they cause injury and damage to themselves, they will also induce injury and damage to others also on the road around them.

Watch us live at TVW.org

Search for “Page School” in the Archives to watch yourself in the mock committee hearings.

Senate addresses issue of smoking in cars



Olympia – Senate Bill 6818 was introduced yesterday by Senators Meaghan Geiger and Mariah Deforest. “This bill addresses the issue of smoking in cars with children and will greatly decrease the percentage of children who get permanent health problems from

inhaling second hand smoke,” said Sen. Geiger. The back seat of a car in which somebody is smoking is 30 times higher than the level at which an unhealthy air alert is triggered. Studies show that children are more at risk from second hand smoke than adults. Secondhand smoke contains over 250 chemicals that have been proven to be either toxic or cancer-causing including, benzene, formaldehyde, arsenic, vinyl chloride, hydrogen cyanide and ammonia. Studies found that 22.8 percent of teens and pre-teens were exposed to smoke in cars in 2009. This bill will greatly decrease the percentage of children who are exposed to secondhand smoke and therefore the amount of children who develop lung cancer later in life.

Teenagers are falling asleep behind the wheel in their education

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Haley Smith, Megan Jackson, and Madison Fields introduced Senate Bill 7891, which addresses the issue of sleep deprived teenagers. “The bill is a good one because it increases the amount of sleep for teenagers,” Sen. Smith said. We are finding that many teens are deprived of sleep. Sixty percent of children under 18 years old complain of being tired during the average school day and 15% of kids say they fell asleep in school during the year. It is also proven that classes that start before 8:00 am perform worse during their school courses. The teens not only don't fully achieve in their first period class but for the rest of the day. Scientists have discovered that at night, humans release melatonin which starts the calming down process that ends in sleep. However, teenagers’ bodies take more time to wind down and fall asleep. Research has shown that teens are 90 minutes delayed on their sleep schedule. Melatonin levels peak at 7 for teens and 4 for adults. So waking a teen at 7 is similar to waking an adult at 4.



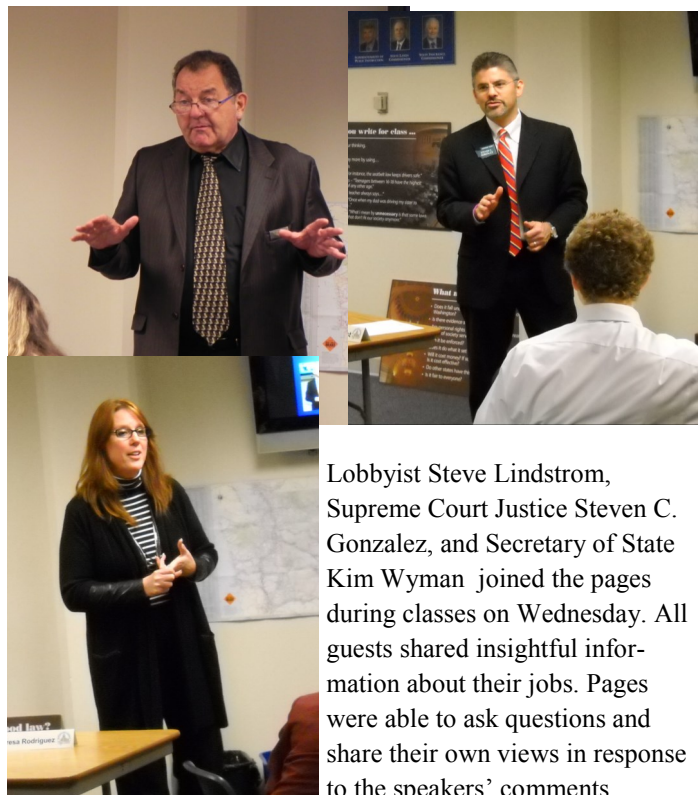
Teen driving age change proposed in Senate

Olympia – Yesterday, Senator Matthew Fields and Chase Bowes introduced Senate Bill 6888, which addresses the issue of the teen driving age. “The bill is a good one because it will raise the teen driving age to 18 years old and require two years of driver’s education,” said Sen. Fields. Teenage drivers had crash rates 3



times higher than those of drivers 20 years and older. This bill will help to reduce the crash rate of teenage drivers by giving more training to young drivers and giving the responsibility of driving to more experienced citizens.

Guest speakers visit Page School



Lobbyist Steve Lindstrom, Supreme Court Justice Steven C. Gonzalez, and Secretary of State Kim Wyman joined the pages during classes on Wednesday. All guests shared insightful information about their jobs. Pages were able to ask questions and share their own views in response to the speakers’ comments.

Page School on the web

The Page School has its own web site. You can find us at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/PageSchool> This newsletter has been posted there.



Page Program over 120 years old

The Legislative page program has been in existence since 1891. This photo is of pages who served in past years. The first female page served in 1937. In the past, pages were required to do ironing and cleaning for members. Page duties today are much more professional and include delivering campus correspondence, helping with mailings in legislative offices, and handing out documents on the floor of the Senate and House.

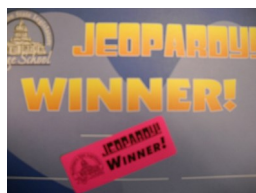
No More Gassy Things

Olympia – Senate Bill 7444 was introduced yesterday by Senators Spencer Curley and Robert Bartlett. “This bill addresses the issue of carbon pollutants and will require the vehicles to have emission tests. Also we will give electric car owners significant benefits,” said Sen. Curley. On average, cars put out 16,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year. We will change the world, one car at a time.



Competitive edge results in *Jeopardy* win

On Friday pages tested their knowledge of the Legislative process in a spirited game of *Jeopardy*. Winning teams were awarded certificates and brightly colored stickers that they wore proudly for the rest of the day.



Lawmakers Put a Stop to Electronic Cigarettes

Olympia – Senate Bill 5932 was introduced yesterday by Senators Emily Shay and Allison Sijgers. “This bill addresses the issue of Electronic cigarettes and will protect public



health from second hand vapors,” said Sen. Shay. The legislature finds that electronic cigarettes are as harmful to society as cigarettes. As of now electronic cigarettes have no regulations, so minors are allowed to purchase and use them. FDA has not yet been able to research electronic cigarettes because the product is so new. In electronic cigarettes you are allowed to place any type of liquid into the cartridge to turn into vapor to smoke, By comparison, regular cigarettes contain just tobacco, but electronic cigarettes contain pure nicotine which could be more harmful. Sen. Sijgers announced “Electronic cigarettes are too new and under researched to be available freely on the market. This makes too many potential hazards.” The public needs to be safer from potentially harmful vapors, especially until there has been proper testing and research on the cigarettes.

Experienced Teachers

Sharon Heath is in her first year as the Page School teacher; however, she is definitely not new to the Washington Legislature having worked nearly 20 years for the Legislature’s computer support agency. She has also earned a Master’s in Education and has taught middle school as well as college students.

Leo O’Leary has been teaching and coaching in and around Olympia for the past ten years and is in his third session as a Page School teacher. “I really like the fact that I can help kids make their dreams come true through both education and athletics,” he said as he introduced himself on Monday.

